

SOME RECENT POETRY.

Maurice Thompson sings breezily and sweetly. All that lives in the open air inspires him. The birds are his friends and teachers. The landscapes, the stream, the leaping fish, afford subjects for his verse. His turns naturally to bawdy poetry, too, as witness "Old Rochon" in his new volume of "Poems" (Hough- ton, Mifflin & Co.) His work is good and true, and more of it will always be welcome.

Nora Perry is an old friend and needs no introduction for her volume of "Lyrics and Legends" (Little, Brown & Co.). Graceful lyrics and dramatically rendered legends may be expected, and the expectation will not be disappointed. There are also songs of the seasons, pretty verses informed by a tender poesy, poetic adulations to the exercise of faith, and trust in all the affairs of life, and pervading all, that perfume of sympathetic womanhood which consecrates worse poetry than this, and carries soothng and consolation to many a world-weary soul.

There are many charming poems in Elizabeth Akers's new volume, and not the least delightful of them is that which gives the collection its title—"The High Top Sweating" (Charles Scribner's Sons). There is a ring and swing in this poet's verse which is very attractive, and she writes with a verse which communiates itself to the reader. She is fond of Nature, and describes it well. She also exhibits a pleasant maternal vein—that attribute which imparts to the poetry of some women so subtle and delicate a charm.

The Romanian folk-songs collected by Helene Vacaresco and translated by Carmen Sylva, and brought out under the title of "The Bard of the Dimbovita" (Charles Scribner's Sons), may be commended to all who love strange and simple music, full of natural feeling and wholly untouched by art. The verses are almost all improvisations, and have been taken down directly from the lips of the peasants. In many of them there is a curious, wild pathos, and a force of imagination often to be found among half-civilized peoples than is generally supposed.

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New Publications.

HARPER & BROTHERS

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THE BLUE-GRASS REGION OF KENTUCKY, and Other Kentucky Articles. By JAMES LANE ALLEN, Author of "Flute and Violin" and Other Kentucky Tales and Romances." Illustrated. Svo, cloth, ornamental, \$2.50.

These sketches of Kentucky life and manners are characteristic of that great and charm of art of which Mr. Allen is an acknowledged master. They embrace all the interesting descriptions not only of the country, but of the manners and customs of the people, including the great coal and iron districts of the state, which have been so wonderfully developed within the past few years.

II.

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The political questions chiefly discussed in this monograph are the rise and progress of the new Tories after the Reform Bill, the birth and meaning of Lord Derby's change of party, the career of Sir George Pease, and with Mr. Disraeli, and the political importance of his leadership in Government and Opposition.

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